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## NOTES.

The sudden and dramatic death of Henry George on the eve of the mayoralty election in New York, in which he struck fire by his characteristic and passionate denunciation of "boss" rule, brings to a close a remarkable economic career. An unknown compositor, without wealth, by virtue of a taking style, a brilliant imagination, and persistent earnestness in one special field, made his name known not merely to his own country, but to the whole world, as a household word. He caught the unrest of the time and gave it an economic justification, which, whether correct or not, made a conquest of great numbers of men. By giving, in an illuminating way, a specific cause of poverty, he satisfied many minds not capable of reasoning out difficult economic problems. Whether or not his conclusions were based upon sufficiently sound processes may be left to a more careful study of the period in which he lived, and of the quality of his contributions to political economy.

## THE MONETARY COMMISSION.

The refusal of Congress to accept the recommendation of President McKinley concerning the appointment of a suitable Monetary Commission owing to the preponderance of free silver influences in the Senate, has led to a result which, although perhaps unlooked for, was only the outcome of the existing situation. It is a commonplace to say that it is an American characteristic that the people initiate measures which in other countries are left wholly to the government, or to those in positions of public authority. The appointment of the Monetary Commission by the executive committee of the Indianapolis Monetary Convention is a striking example of this American tendency. It scarcely needs to be recalled that the Indianapolis Convention at its meeting of last winter decided to arrange for the appointment of a Commission of competent men which should fully represent the business interests of the country, in case Congress should fail to provide for the investigation of the monetary question. As most of the readers